

The last two weeks have seen an intense pick-up in activity, as petitioning to get on the ballot starts in three weeks and as unions and other groups hold endorsement screenings. The ground game starts soon. My campaign manager Sean Finnerty and my volunteer coordinator Marc Haken are building an impressive field operation, thanks to all of you who have said "yes" when they called. If you haven't yet signed up to carry a petition, please [email](#) me and we will get you plugged in. And don't forget: today is my [community fundraiser](#) at the Fame Diner on Union Turnpike and the corner of Utopia Parkway, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Click [here](#) if you cannot see the pictures below.)

Teamwork is the name of the game. I hosted a fundraiser in my backyard for my fellow Democratic District Leader Uma Sengupta, with Congressman Gregory Meeks. It was a huge success. Mrs. Sengupta, the first South Asian elected official in New York, is a very highly respected leader both in the South Asian community and in the Democratic Party. She and I became Democratic District Leaders together in 2002, and we will be running for re-election as District Leaders together this year (in addition to my running for the Assembly).



St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church is one of the largest in the 25th district, and has many Hispanic parishioners. Here I am representing Assemblyman McLaughlin in presenting a proclamation to the Church's Spanish Society at their annual dinner. The Spanish Society plays an important role in the life of the Church as well as within the entire community. The Society brings together the members of the Church's large Hispanic community in worship and fellowship, and performs many charitable works in the community, including working with the homeless.

Every year tens of thousands of Sikhs march down Broadway in celebration of their religion and culture, and in recognition of their many contributions to this country and to the New York metropolitan region in particular. I am extremely proud to have the support of the leadership of both Sikh Temples in the 25th district, including the Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Temple from Richmond Hill, with whom I am marching in this picture. Click [here](#) to see my speech at the annual Sikh parade.





Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn is one of the people who helped me get started in community service and politics, and I have been a member of her Democratic Club for years. The Stevenson Democratic Club is one of the largest and most successful in Queens, and Nettie is famous for her tenacity and independence. I was honored to be the Club's guest speaker for the May meeting, which was really like sitting in my living room talking with old friends. It would be a great honor to serve with her in the Assembly.

The 25th district has a growing Guyanese community, particularly in Richmond Hill, so it was an honor to be invited to speak at the Faith Assembly Church at its Sunday morning service, which has a large Guyanese congregation. The Church's leadership and members were very welcoming, and of course I've known many of their members for several years now as the Democratic District Leader in that area. Here I am with the Church's pastor at lunch after the service. Click [here](#) to see my speech at the Faith Assembly Church.



Rory Lancman  
contact@lancman.com  
917-363-9004

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